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Hitting the trail

Ben Phillips leads his dad Larry Phillips onto the horse trail at Central Hills Baptist Retreat during a Dad-Lad weekend there. Phillips is pastor of Lock Station Church. Fathers and sons slept in tents, went swimming, horseback riding, canoeing, and shooting. The last Dad-Lad weekend will be July 23-24. More photos page 2.

Flood of sympathy

Uganda missionaries face robbers, vow to persevere

By Robert O'Brien

JINJA, Uganda (BP)—Veteran missionaries Webster and Betty Carroll came face to face with a point of a gun in a terrifying early morning armed robbery of their home in Jinja, Uganda, but remain determined to continue their work.

The Carrolls and their son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Jennifer Carroll of Blomington, Ind., and a Ugandan Christian lost about \$7,000 in money and goods in the July 7 break-in.

In the past three years, Carroll says, missionaries and mission homes and property have suffered a series of burglaries. On two occasions, missionaries have had automobiles taken from them at gunpoint but, like the Carrolls, remained determined to persevere.

"People ask us why we don't leave," Carroll said. "We stay because we're

naive enough to cling to the conviction that God still wants us here. We love the people and have had and still have many opportunities for ministry."

"We've had some problems," added Rick Goodgame, mission chairman, but "I believe the government is seeking positive approaches to help solve them."

The Carrolls have personally experienced seven robberies of their home, but the latest incident was the first time they had met robbers face to face.

The sound of barking dogs awakened the household about 1 a.m. and when Webster and Tim investigated, they saw four African men in the garden. A man at the kitchen window said, "Open the door. We're soldiers looking for guerrillas."

"I didn't believe that, because the man was dressed in civilian clothing," the elder Carroll said. "We went back and told Betty and Jennifer to dress quickly because we knew they would break in."

Moments later a huge stone burst the kitchen door lock.

One intruder brandished a rifle, the others clutched heavy metal implements. A night watchman saw four other men standing outside.

They herded the young Ugandan Christian, Humphrey Sakwa, who lives in the Carrolls' property, into the house. They had already robbed Sakwa, whom Webster Carroll says "is like a son to us," of shoes and a \$200

radio Sakwa had saved for more than a year to buy.

The robbers made the five people lie on a bedroom floor. The 30 minutes of terror peaked as the men forced 23-year-old Tim, who is considering a career in missions in Africa, to crawl around the house pointing out valuable items.

"They kicked him continually," said his father. "That was the most terrifying time. They shut the bedroom door. We could hear them but we couldn't see. We were afraid they would kill him."

The men finally returned Tim to the bedroom, basically unhurt, and left with their loot, including \$300 in Tim's traveler's checks, airline tickets, a wallet containing Jennifer's passport, a stereo, a camera, three tape recorders, two radios, a lot of men's and women's clothing, shoes, watches and other items.

Mission volunteers James and Jacki I. Reed of Owasso, Okla., who live in a duplex with the Carrolls, heard the entire break-in but feared interference would jeopardize the Carrolls' lives.

Instead, the Reeds, part of the 15-missionary contingent in Uganda, prayed for the victims' safety. The Carrolls reported later that even though terrified they felt a strong sense of internal peace throughout the robbery.

In succeeding days a flood of Ugandans from near and far have visited to

express sorrow, apologize for the outrage, and express gratitude for what the missionaries have meant to them. That has included a number of Ugandan government officials, "who know what Baptist mission work has meant to Uganda in the years since the liberation from Idi Amin in 1979," Carroll said.

Since 1977 the Foreign Mission Board has spent more than \$500,000 for relief in Uganda. Funds were used to provide agricultural supplies, food and seeds and to transport medicine and food donated by other organizations.

The love and concern of the Ugandans moved Jennifer Carroll, who was reared in Florida and South Carolina, to explain: "I can really understand now why Tim's mom and dad can stay. The people are so giving and loving and they were so sad and apologetic about our difficulty."

"We went through a traumatic experience personally, but that has no weight when you consider the constant threat the Africans face with the loss of property and lives," Tim added.

"African Christians have so much more to offer missionaries than vice versa," said Tim, who grew up as a missionary kid in Tanzania and Uganda. "The vital element of the experience of working in Uganda is the tremendous Christlikeness and spiritual depth of so many African Christians."

(O'Brien writes for the FMB.)

Raglands want to return to Lebanon as peacemakers

By Bill Webb

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—His son's upcoming wedding in Oklahoma finally brought Jim Ragland out of besieged Beirut.

But the Southern Baptist missionary firmly believes the futility of the war raging in Lebanon makes it more important than ever for him and his wife, Leola, to return to resume their roles as peacemakers.

Speaking at Foreign Mission Board offices in Richmond, Va., on July 13,

just two days after he left the Middle East, Ragland said some of his Lebanese friends feel the war between Israeli and Palestinian soldiers will rid Lebanon of its estimated 700,000 Palestinians and most of the nation's problems.

However, Ragland, who has lived nearly 28 years in west Beirut, believes "most of the Palestinians are there to stay. My Lebanese friends are going to have to learn to live with that," he said, smiling.

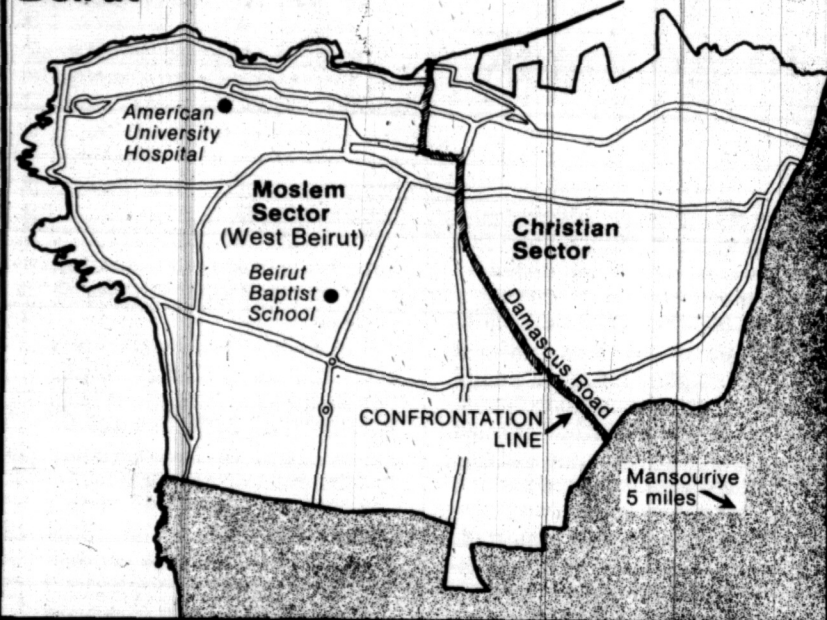
Because the conflict has intensified the bitterness and anger between the Lebanese and Palestinians, the roles of missionaries as mediators, peacemakers and reconcilers won't be easy since, "You get shot at from both sides. We believe that in the Lebanon of tomorrow there will be more bigotry and more suspicion of Americans," he suggested.

Missionary presence for Ragland was anything but easy from the time (Continue on page 2)



Jim Ragland hugs his wife Leola following his return from west Beirut. The Raglands want to return to that Mid-East country as soon as possible. Beirut Baptist School is in the western sector where fighting has been going on for weeks.

Beirut



This map shows the location of Beirut Baptist School, which Southern Baptist missionary Jim Ragland converted to a Red Cross clinic and refugee center. During the first few days of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, missionary nurse Violet Popp and journeyman James Wilson worked as volunteers at the American University Hospital in West Beirut. Both have since left the country. West Beirut has been the target of the Israeli military, bent on clearing out Palestinian guerrillas entrenched there. Nine Southern Baptist missionaries remained in Lebanon—all in Mansouriyeh—when Ragland returned to the United States July 11. The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary, Arab Baptist Publications Center and Baptist Recording Studio for Radio and TV are all in the Mansouriyeh area, located on a hillside overlooking the city. (BP)

Editorial

Partnership participation slows

By Don McGregor

The endeavor that is Mississippi Partners with the Rio de la Plata is not moving on a very successful course from the Mississippi perspective. To date there have been 57 requests for assistance from Baptists in the three South American countries—Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina. To date, 35 of the requests are still unfilled.

Seven requests have been cancelled, partly because there was no response to the need. According to the records only 15 requests have found response. Ten of them have been completed, and five more are either under way or in the process of being worked out.

It must be noted, however, that the first volunteers to go are not a part of the records because they went before the record keeping system was established. They were definitely pioneers and made a distinct contribution in two of the nations, but they went out ahead of the official request and report system now in use.

They are Mr. and Mrs. Perry Sanderford of Pinelake Baptist Church in Rankin County, a young couple without question led of the Lord to initiate the volunteer involvement; for they began seeking a place to serve from the inauguration of the endeavor. And their service was needed. They filled three

projects in two countries in two weeks time. Perry Sanderford helped with carpentry and masonry work and in visitation at New Dawn Baptist Church in Montevideo while Mary Sanderford worked with the missionary kids during the Uruguay mission meeting. Then the couple worked together at Burzaco Baptist Church in Buenos Aires the next week. In addition to their visitation, Perry helped Pastor-missionary Glen Johnson to clear the land for a new chapel that the church was planning to inaugurate. A letter a few days ago from the pastor to the editor indicated that the chapel has been completed, services began about six weeks ago, Sunday School attendance is 35 or more, and several have been saved.

Clearing brush off of a vacant lot was turned into a ministry.

And so it is with a great deal of the work that is needing to be done. Some of it is direct evangelism or witnessing. Some of it is manual labor that will make evangelism possible.

For instance, there is a request from Paraguay seeking a group from Mississippi to make extensive repairs to the Bible institute building in Asuncion. Several months ago a utility crew was digging around in the street and damaged the foundation across the front of the building. A wall collapsed, destroy-

ing two classrooms and other areas. Those rooms have not been used since, but they are needed in the process of training ministers for Paraguay. A group is needed before the middle of October to go down and make the repairs.

It's not that people are not going. As noted above, 10 projects have been completed, and five more are under way or in the planning stage. Just last week Laura Compere of Terry and Jeanette Murray of Jackson returned from a week in both Paraguay and Uruguay working with missionary kids during mission weeks in both countries.

Other completed projects include construction and evangelism work in Mendoza, Argentina, by a group from Jeff Davis Association; a devotional speaker (Dennis Johnsey) went to Asuncion, Paraguay, in November; a conference leader (Clark Hensley) went to Asuncion in February; an evangelism specialist (Maurice Flowers) sent to Carmelo, Uruguay, in September; a summer VBS worker (Lisa Wilcutt) went to Montevideo in January; at the same time a camp worker (Bud Edwards) went to Montevideo; a Sunday School workshop leader (Wayne Wilson) went to Montevideo in March; and a watch repair (Continued on page 2)

Digging a ditch by a sweetgum tree . . .

"He that winneth souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30) is the inscription on the plaque given Percy Ray of Myrtle, Mississippi. He was one of 17 Southern Baptist evangelists honored during the SBC Pastors' Conference in New Orleans. Those men were the only Southern Baptists who have been full time evangelists preaching over 30 years. Long time Mississippians who know Percy Ray will think immediately of Camp Zion.

By Tim Nicholas

In 1949 Percy Ray had been a half time Home Mission Board missionary for 14 years, helping to revitalize rural churches. He was pastor of Myrtle Baptist Church and with HMB counsel, he decided to begin a camp where groups of people could come for revitalization of their faith.

Ray says most of the Myrtle members thought the camp "would bleed the church dry so nearly everybody pulled out and started another church." He adds, "we couldn't pay our light or insurance bill." But he began work on the camp anyway. Immediately, an anonymous gift came from Arizona in cash, enough to pay bills and operate for six months.

He started digging a ditch for the first building one day near the church. He says he was wearing a pair of striped overalls. That day a man drove by and stopped his car asking Ray

what he was doing. Ray explained the purpose of the camp. "He got out of the car crying and hugged me," says Ray. The man said the Lord had awakened him at 2:30 that morning and told him to look for a man wearing striped overalls digging a ditch by a sweetgum tree and give him a check for \$1,500.

"It's continued like that," says Ray, who now oversees three meetings a year at Camp Zion in Myrtle where up to 2,500 persons are preached to, fed and housed. Each meeting lasts from Monday evening to breakfast Friday morning.

Total cost to each participant for the week is \$2. Ray says that is to cover registration and insurance.

Other expenses of the camp are covered by donations taken during sessions.

For instance, Ray, who wanted to build a new dormitory, told his church members that somebody would give \$7,000. In the camp meeting that week, members continually asked Ray if the money had been given yet. Ray said the people didn't believe it would happen. In the latter part of the week a man from Enterprise, Ala., came to the meeting asking Ray to pray for him. During a break in the program, Ray and the man prayed together. The man opened his eyes and said, "Do you need \$7,000?" The man had a check for the entire amount already made out.

A couple asked Ray shortly after if he had the \$7,000 yet. He said yes and the couple handed him another check for \$2,000.

Myrtle church members went to the podium that evening and asked Ray to show what he had received. Then a woman in the audience volunteered to pay for the hinges on the proposed dormitory doors. Another would pay for parking, campers, mobile homes. Camp Zion paid \$1,000 per acre for all 155 acres—cash.

When Ray worked for the HMB, he was responsible for 39 churches being built and dedicated debt-free in 14 years. In 1943, he and friend, R. G. Lee, former pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, dedicated seven



Percy Ray, 72, sits in the tabernacle at Camp Zion in Myrtle where 2,500 people descend on the 300-population town in north Mississippi three times a year. Pat Zondervan just gave the camp 2,000 copies of the 1982 edition of "Inspiring Hymns."

churches in one day. In 1949, they did eight in one day in three states. They traveled by car. The first was at 5:30 a.m.; the last at 10:30 that night.

Ray used Lee on his program at the camp. Meetings are in March, July and August. He said they could schedule more, but doesn't think more are needed. Other speakers have been Adrian Rogers, Jerry Vines, B. R. Lakin, and Earl Kelly. "We have denominational leaders here sandwiched with country preachers," says Ray. "They learn what John R. Rice and Jack Hyles say about Southern Baptists is not true. They say it's all liberals and modernists," Ray disagrees. "The grassroots Baptists are not like that. Most are conservative."

Programs at the camp meetings consist of eating, sleeping, and listening to Bible study and preaching. There are no recreational facilities except for a tiny lake where Ray says pesticide sprayers over nearby fields killed most of the fish.

Families stay together all day. He said they tried a nursery, but that just helped spread childhood diseases to every child.

The tabernacle, where services are held, holds 2,500 people, likely making it the largest "church building" in Mississippi. The dining (Continued on page 2)

High court limits power of school boards book bans

By Stan Hastey
WASHINGTON (BP)—High school and junior high school students may take school boards to court for banning books from school libraries, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 25.

In a hotly disputed 5-4 ruling, the high court said students possess the right to receive even controversial information in school libraries and ordered the case sent back to a U.S. district court for trial.

Justice William J. Brennan Jr., the court's senior member, conceded that when school boards have broad discretion in managing school affairs, they must do so "in a manner that comports with the transcendent imperatives of the First Amendment."

Brennan noted that unlike textbooks, library books are not required reading and declared that "just as access to ideas makes it possible for citizens to generally exercise their rights of free speech and press in a meaningful manner, such access prepares students for active and effective participation in the pluralistic, often contentious society in which they will soon be adult members."

The case arose in 1975 when five Long Island, N.Y. students took the Board of Education of Island Trees Union Free School District to court for removing nine books from the senior and junior high school libraries. School board members said books were removed because they were "anti-American, anti-Christian, anti-Semitic, and just plain filthy," adding that "it is our duty, our moral obligation, to protect the children in our schools from this moral danger as surely as from physical and medical dangers."

The decision to ban the books came

after three school board members, including the president and vice president, attended a conference sponsored by a politically conservative organization, Parents of New York United (PONYU). At the conference, school board members were given lists of "objectionable" books.

After a temporary order to remove 11 books was carried out, the school board appointed a "book review committee" to read the books and make recommendations for permanent action. The committee, consisting of four parents and four Island Trees schools

staff, recommended that five of the books be retained and two others be removed permanently.

But the school board rejected the findings and ordered nine of the 11 taken off the shelves.

In his opinion for the slim majority, Brennan said that while school boards "possess significant discretion" in deciding what books to place in school libraries, "that discretion may not be exercised in a narrowly partisan or political manner.... Our Constitution does not permit the official suppression of ideas."

Of key significance for the federal district court which will now review the case, Brennan wrote, was the motivation behind the action to ban the books. If the school board intended to deny students access to ideas simply because the board disagreed with them and if such intent was the decisive factor in the banning action, the lower courts must find that the board violated the students' constitutional rights, he added.

(Hastey writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.)



The shootists

In foreground, Gordon Sansing and his son Brian shoot air rifles as do Donald Franklin and his son Glynn beside them. Both pairs are from Pontotoc. Sansing is pastor of First Church there and Franklin is a mechanic. Glenn said that "you gotta bring your dad so you can get to know your dad a little bit better. We love him, but we need to know him like friends." They were at Dad-Lad weekend at Central Hills.

Many Rio de la Plata requests go unfilled in three countries

Thirty-five requests for Mississippi involvement in projects of the Mississippi Partners with the Rio de la Plata are yet to be filled as the endeavor goes into the last half of its first year.

The Rio de la Plata, a term used to designate the partnership area, consists of Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina. The partnership arrangement officially is scheduled to continue through 1984.

The unfilled requests are as follows:

Argentina

Camp construction—12 to 15 persons—Before November
Church and pastor's home

Rebel roundup raises \$200

The Ole Miss Baptist Student Union of University, Mississippi, hosted the third annual Rebel Roundup Saturday, April 24. They raised \$200 for student missions.

Ten senior high teams and nine junior high teams participated in a day of crazy games followed by a rally featuring Johnny Reb mascot, Jeff Hubbard, Lady Rebel volleyball player, Jenny Rhoads, and UM football player, Bryan Kennedy.

Members of the Ole Miss BSU served as officials for the games. Team "mommas" and "daddies" ran the concession stand. "The Gift of Song" singing ensemble and "The Gathering" drama team shared in the rally service. Lloyd Lunceford, associate state BSU director, and Keith Cating, Ole Miss BSU director, also shared in the rally.

This year's Rebel Roundup winners were as follows:

High School division: 1st place, Drew Baptist; 2nd place, FBC Okolona; 3rd place, FBC Pontotoc; spirit award, FBC West Point.

Junior High division: 1st place, Murphy Creek Baptist, Louisville; 2nd place, State Blvd. Bapt., Meridian; 3rd place, FBC Water Valley.

The Ole Miss BSU gave a total of \$7,043.89 to missions with a goal of \$6,500.

construction—8 to 10 persons—Before November

Construction of chapel—6 to 8 persons—Before November

Teaching children—5 to 6 persons—Before November

Music group—10 to 15 persons—Before November

Installation of ceilings on communications center—as many as possible—as quickly as possible

Construction of education building—8 to 10 persons—June 1983

Evangelistic team (evangelist, organizer, soloist, lay person)—4 people—September

Construction work and evangelism—6 persons—Immediately or January

Creative activities teacher—3 persons—Immediately or August 1983

Evangelist and visitation—up to 10 persons—Immediately

Construction of church building and furniture—8 persons—March or April 1984

Music group—Up to 20 persons—September

Masonry and painting—4 persons—Immediately or July 1983

Evangelism—1 person—August or October

Camp construction—6 to 12 persons—August or September

General repairs on Seminary buildings—5 persons—January 1983

Painters at Goodwill Center—2 persons—January 1983

Evangelism (chalk talks, orienta-

tion, training) 6 persons—October 1982

February 1983

Paraguay

Bricklayers, electrician—2 to 4 persons—October, November, or December

Music evangelism—10 to 15 persons—September

Boiler Mechanic—1 person—As soon as possible

Hospital dietician—1 person—As soon as possible

Secondary teacher—1 person—Immediately

Elementary teacher—1 person—Immediately

Anesthesiology instruction—1 person—Immediately

Radio technician—1 person—As soon as possible

Uruguay

Carpentry and evangelism—4 to 6 persons—May be too late

Auto mechanic—1 person—May be too late

Construction—2 to 8 persons—Through November

Agricultural engineer—1 person—Immediately

Music Group—5 to 9 persons—December

Personal evangelists—5 persons—December

BSU evangelistic team (Music—10 weeks) 10 to 15 persons—May through August 1983.

Editorial

(Continued from page 1)

specialist (a non-Mississippian) went to Carmelo in April.

Those projects being planned or that are under way include an evangelism group from Jones County for Buenos Aires in October or November; a Vacation Bible School workshop leader from Jackson for Montevideo in November; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen to go to Uruguay in April of 1983; and a group of five to work with missionary kids during a MasterLife workshop in October.

There are barriers to making volunteer work in the Rio de la Plata a simple situation. The expense of transportation is necessarily a factor. Also, of course, the recent hostilities between Argentina and England had their effect on the partnership endeavor because of the U.S. support for England. That unpleasant incident is over, so perhaps the partnership involvement can move full speed ahead in Argentina, where there have been more requests than from any country but only one project completed.

It is not an easy task, but the Rio de la Plata is looking to Mississippi for help. The Baptist Record will continue to publish the list of projects for which help has been requested.

Budget committee sets Jackson meet

On July 27, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Budget and Cooperative Program Promotion Committee will meet. This is the committee that discusses budgetary needs within the convention for 1983.

The committee will meet at 10 a.m. in the executive committee room at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said that anyone from a cooperating Baptist church desiring input in the decision-making process may participate. Basically, the results of this committee's work are what will be presented to the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November.

Members of the committee are Joe McKeever, chairman; Ingram Foster; R. J. Reynolds; Marvin Bond; Bartis Harper; Hueston Adkins; and ex officio members are Charles Pickering, James F. Yates, and L. Edward Gandy.

T. E. Waldrup

T. E. Waldrup and not R. E. Waldrup was a former pastor of Second Avenue Baptist Church, Laurel, as indicated in a recent "letter to the editor." He was pastor there, 1908-1910. (The church is making plans for a 75th anniversary celebration and is seeking information on Waldrup and several other former pastors.)

Raglands want to go back as peacemakers

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli troops invaded Lebanon June 4 until July 7 when he left Beirut, the focal point of Israeli shelling and rocket fire. He opened Beirut Baptist School, where he is principal, to refugee families streaming into the city from the south and established a Red Cross clinic on the compound. Some 300 refugees live there.

His days were clearly days of fear, he said.

Holding up a piece of shrapnel he found behind his house, he said, "We have feared these." The razor-sharp shell fragments spin in all directions with the capability to "tear your head off," he explained.

Israeli air raids, often beginning in early afternoon and continuing past midnight, always sent Ragland, families in the area and refugees scurrying for safety in the school basement.

Leaflets dropped from Israeli aircraft into west Beirut warned civilians in ominous terms to flee the city or be destroyed with the enemy. Many families loaded up their belongings and fled in panic for the mountains to the east or to safer areas in the south, creating "ghost towns" and totally emptying apartment buildings, he said.

The war has brought sorrow, Ragland said. Two girls who attended the 800-student Beirut Baptist School have been killed by rocket fire. The first, a shy, blue-eyed, first-grader named

Lina, one of Leola's favorite students, died along with her grandmother, two uncles and two cousins, Ragland said.

Yet despite the fear and suffering, a spirit of revival characterizes the little band of Baptists who remain in west Beirut, he emphasized. One young member of nearby Mousetheh Baptist Church left for east Beirut but returned after a couple of days. "On the eastside there is peace. People play tennis and basketball and swim and visit and have parties," the young man reported. "But here in west Beirut we have revival. Here we pray together. Here we feel the presence of God. I had to come back and be a part."

One member of the unofficial troops sent to his neighborhood to ensure law and order observed how Ragland treated employees of the school and asked to know more about his God.

Ragland talked with him and gave him a Bible. As the soldier took the book the missionary thought, "This man is a Moslem and he'll have to read this Bible secretly."

Instead the young soldier carried his Bible under his arm wherever he went. He later went to the pastor and said, "I want to know how to become a believer," Ragland reported.

The Raglands are out of west Beirut for the time being but it isn't likely they'll stay away very long from the place they feel they belong.

(Webb writes for the FMB.)

Digging a ditch by a sweetgum tree

(Continued from page 1)

hall can seat all 2,500 simultaneously and helpers can serve the family style meals to everyone within 16 minutes. Most of the food is donated. During the interview for this story, a meat truck pulled up to the complex. Ray explains that the owner of a meat company "got right with the Lord," at the camp and every year gives a truckload of meat.

Men all sleep together, as do the women. The largest dormitory has 800 beds in one room—400 bunks beds all together. Other dorms hold only 600 beds. Ray says no one complains.

Purpose of the camp meetings is threefold, says Ray, "get better knowledge of the Word of God, get better knowledge of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers, and to pray for revival in Baptist churches in America that will call America back to God."

He adds, "we don't deal with

methods, that's done with state assemblies, like Gulfshore."

Ray laments the "showmanship" he sees in many Baptist churches of today. "We're getting away from the personal touch," he says, noting that a lot of entertainment is showing up in meetings. "The lost person won't give you a dime for entertainment," he says.

Ray believes that "over half the average church membership has never been saved," he says. He says preachers should "go back to preaching repentance and the new birth" and the biggest need is "prayer until conviction comes."

Ray says that at Camp Zion more than 2,000 men have surrendered to preach. Back in March a group of 100 men promised to go back to their churches and gather 12 men each to "pray every week till revival breaks."

Five years ago, Ray took a group to

Washington, D. C., to the Washington Monument for a prayer meeting asking God to save America.

A graduate of Union University, Ray credits Joe Odle, the late editor of the Baptist Record with leading him to the Lord. Ray went into evangelism right after college and "never did go to seminary." He notes, with his dry wit showing that "a seed is just as productive if an ignorant puts it there."

He has two honorary doctorates, one from Emmanuel Baptist College in Atlanta. The other is from the American College of Jiu Jitsu. He led the president of that school to the Lord and the man wanted to do something in return.

At 72, Percy Ray says he tried to retire several years ago, but the church wanted him to stay on. He says he is feeling his years in that he wears out sooner.

Whew!

capsules

Reagan wants credit

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Reagan vowed here to fight for his tuition tax credit bill and denied that his support for the troubled measure is politically motivated.

Although he did not elaborate on his game plan to pressure Congress for the measure, he insisted anew that the proposal "is simply a recognition of the unfairness" of a system that taxes citizens for the support of public schools even when they send their children to private institutions.

At its recent meeting in New Orleans, the Southern Baptist Convention overwhelmingly expressed opposition to the plan, calling on Reagan to reconsider his support of tuition tax credit bills now languishing in Congress.

A little Reformed dancing

Mich. (EP)—Christian Reformed Church members have gained the denomination's approval to take part in ballet, folk dancing, ethnic dancing and, within limits, social dancing. Disco dancing still will be taboo for the church's 250,000 members in the United States and Canada.

The church synod decided to accept parts of a committee report on dancing that modifies earlier synods' denunciation of the activity and "other worldly amusements," including playing cards and going to movies.

Ukraine Christians speak for peace

WASHINGTON, DC—Baptist World Alliance headquarters here received a telegram June 4 signed by Yakov Dukhonenko, superintendent for Regional Unions of Evangelical Christians-Baptists of the Ukraine, and a Baptist leader who visited Mississippi late last year.

The telegram said that his regional group had discussed the recent peace conference in Moscow and that they "fully endorse its appeal to the Second Special Session of the UN General Assembly on Disarmament and approve the peace proposals of the Soviet Union and other peace-loving nations as the followers of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace."

Court will review abortion laws

WASHINGTON (BP)—In a series of actions which may indicate significant changes in thinking on one of the country's most volatile social issues, the U.S. Supreme Court announced here it will review abortion laws from two states and a city during its next term.

By agreeing to rule in five separate cases from Akron, Ohio, Missouri and Virginia, the high court seems poised to issue its most comprehensive findings on abortion since its landmark 1973 decisions outlawing abortion laws in some 40 states.



A father and his son hike through Central Hills near Kosciusko during Dad-Lad weekend there. The Brotherhood Department sponsors these weekends along with Royal Ambassador camping.

Campers on Mission to meet in Tenn.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—The annual Campers on Mission (COM) National Rally will kickoff in Knoxville, Tenn., the host city of the 1982 World's Fair, Friday July 23-Sunday, July 25.

Christians from all over the U.S., representing various denominations, will convene at Neal's Landing Campground, highway 11-E, five miles east of I-40.

The three-day event is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board in cooperation with Baptist Ministries for the 1982 World's Fair.

There is a straight fence run for us between right and wrong, and there is no sitting on that fence.—R. W. Barbour.

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Researchers will find preserved personalities

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Oral history is as old as man, though the term, "oral history," is fairly new. Probably Luke used the oral history method to gather facts for his New Testament writings. Now that the electronic age is here, voices and personalities can be preserved on tape for historians and researchers of the future.

For a year and a half Edwina Robinson of Jackson has been involved in an oral history project for the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. Her first goal was to interview 100 persons; to date she has done at least 65 interviews. Of course, such a project is endless.

Miss Robinson, who before retirement was executive director, Mississippi WMU, has also transcribed each conversation; all the cassette tapes and typescripts are to be kept in the historical collection on the second floor of the Mississippi College library in Clinton.

Having the tape transcribed does not render the tape itself unimportant, but will mean that the researcher in years to come will be able both to read and to listen. Thus, he or she will be able to understand the interviewee better and more easily get the feel of the subject.

Each interview usually takes about an hour, Miss Robinson said, but the average length of the interview in its final stage is about 30 minutes. When she arrives by appointment, she sets up the equipment, chats informally with the subject to put him or her at ease, and explains the procedure, most of which has already been discussed in earlier arrangements. At the beginning of each tape, she records the place and date of the interview and names of the persons talking.

Persons she has already interviewed, and subjects discussed are:

Presidents of Mississippi Baptist

Convention: John E. Barnes, W. Douglas Hudgins, Claude Townsend, David Grant, James Richardson, Bill Causey, Robert Hamblin ("Hamblin was able to give some perspective on Mississippi Baptists"); executive secretaries: W. Douglas Hudgins; institutions — colleges: Blue Mountain — Harold Fisher, Mrs. W. C. Tyler, J. E. Buchanan, W. T. Lowrey, Jr.; Clarke — W. E. Greene, W. L. Compere, M. L. Flynt, C. Z. Holland, E. C. Farr; William Carey — Ralph Noonkester, Mrs. I. E. Rouse, John E. Barnes, Bruce Aultman;

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center: Paul Pryor, Mike Wilkinson, Zach Hederman; Children's Village: Paul Nunnery, Mrs. W. G. Mize, Wheeler C. Cathey;

Assemblies — camps: Gulfshore — Brooks Wester, David Grant; Garaywa: Marjean Patterson, Edwina Robinson; Central Hills, Paul Harrell, W. Levon Moore; Christian Action Commission: Macklyn Hubbard; Christian education: Earl Kelly, Owen Cooper; civil rights: W. P. Davis, Anne McWilliams; Baptist Foundation, Carey Cox; student work, Ralph Winders; stewardship department: Clarence Cutrell; Sunday School, Carolyn Madison; Hinds-Madison Association, Fred Tarpley; growth of work on Gulf Coast: Clark McMurray, Zeno Wells; growth of work in north Mississippi: Ervin Brown, John Flowers;

McCall controversy (to be released after the year 2,000): Edward L. Byrd, Owen Cooper, Swan Haworth, John Landrum, Edwina Robinson;

Others: Mrs. Chester Quarles, Mrs. Joe T. Odle, C. J. Olander, Mrs. Owen Williams, Howard Spell, S. W. Valentine, J. H. Kyzar, Rowe Holcomb, Wyatt Hunter, John E. Barnes, Land-



Clark Hensley and Edwina Robinson break the ice with a good laugh — for posterity — before she gets into the more serious side of an interview. This session took place at the Baptist Building.

rum Leavell (about the Leavell family); Mrs. E. L. Phillips (about J. D. Franks); C. C. Carraway, Clark Hensley.

"If we wait... our most valuable history will be lost forever," commented J. M. Gaskin, Oklahoma historian. "This tragic fact stares us in the face with awesome reprimand when we think of the 'greats' who are gone, whose voices and viewpoints we did

not preserve. Alas, they are now silent forever! This is compounded in our day when we contemplate the fact that even next year will be too late to collect vital information from many who are now living."

Because of Miss Robinson's ongoing project, a lot of Mississippi Baptist voices are being captured for posterity.

George-Greene helps Nevada church in Sun Valley area

By Horace Glass, DOM, George-Greene Association

Thirteen men from 10 churches in George and Greene Baptist Associations completed the seventh bold mission project at First Baptist Church, Sun Valley, Nevada on June 26th. Team members were able to preach in several churches in the area while in Nevada. Churches preached in were: First Baptist Church, Burney, Calif., South Reno; Stead; First Baptist Church, Sun Valley; and in a convalescent home. Four pastors and one lay preacher conducted services in these churches.

A major highlight for the team was to visit Calvary Baptist Church at Dayton, Nevada on Thursday night for prayer meeting and a meal. Two years ago a team from George-Greene constructed the first permanent building at Calvary. Since then the church has grown from about 30 to well over 100. The building has been paid off and plans are under way to construct another building.

A representative of the Home Mis-

sion Board stated that this has been one of the most successful projects in Pioneer Missions.

There are 19,000 people living in Sun Valley. Bob Wells, director of missions for Spooner and Northern Nevada Baptist Associations, operating out of Reno, says the population in Sun Valley is expected to explode following installation of a sewage system.

There is only nominal Christian witness in Sun Valley and First Baptist Church is the only Baptist witness.

Members of First Baptist have been meeting for several years in two connecting houses. The new structure, a 30 X 100 building, will provide an opportunity for them to minister to more residents of the Valley.

The pastor, Walt Alexander, though suffering from cancer, works faithfully to continue the ministry of the church and complete construction of the badly needed building.

One person said, "the faces of all the people in this area light up when the men from Mississippi arrive."

Ann C. Womack, pastor's wife, dies

Ann Cranford Womack, 36, wife of Fred Womack, pastor of Wildwood Baptist Church, Clinton, died Monday, July 19, at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Jackson, after a lengthy illness.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, July 21, at 10 a.m. at Wildwood Church. Those officiating included C. Z. Holland, Earl Kelly, W. Douglas Hudgins, Jack Lyall, and Ken Smith.

Survivors in addition to her husband are a daughter, Kathy; a son, Eric; and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Cranford. Her father is pastor of Southern Hills Baptist Church, Jackson. Another daughter, Kim, preceded her in death July, 1978.



Mission Olympic blue ribbon winners are all smiles after having captured first place for a Mississippi woman missionary. Baptist Women pictured, right to left top row include: Patsy Rushing, sweepstakes winner with first place in 40 yard dash, volleyball, and basketball; Barbara Norris, sweepstakes winner with first place in volleyball, binocular race and bucket race; Flossie Lee, Chinese checkers; Lillian Thomas, tennis; Holley Malone, softball throw. First row, pictured left to right: Marie Shoemaker, rocking chair race; Vickie Rutland, 60 yard jog; Joan Quick, horseshoes; Mary Frances Buffington, Olympic word game; Joan Tyler, 100 yard walk and croquet; Patsy Shows, sportsmanship award.

Collins women compete in Mission Olympics

"I won another blue ribbon for my missionary!" was one of the many exclamations of the morning, June 26, at the Collins City Park tennis courts, site of the City's first Mission Olympics.

Sponsored by Baptist Women of Collins Baptist Church and assisted by

Eight earn degrees from Southwestern

Eight students from Mississippi were among the 180 graduates receiving degrees July 16 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. James A. Langley, executive secretary, District of Columbia Baptist Convention, was the featured speaker.

The Mississippians: Ronald Edward Cole, MRE, Biloxi; Vincent Jeffrey Doremus, MDiv, Brookhaven; Kaye Batson George, MM, Crystal Springs; William Van Hart, MDiv, Petal; William Leslie Jaggard, MDiv, Jackson; Leo William Roberts, MRE, Kokomo; Frank Shock, III, MRE, Decatur; James Barry Worrell, MCM, Ackerman.

Revival Results

Chinese Mission, First Baptist Church, Greenville: June 14-16; Lok-Tin Cheung, pastor of Chinese Baptist Church, Houston, Texas, evangelist; average of 70 present each night; luncheon meeting for men on Thursday and one for women on Wednesday; Ted Shepherd, pastor.

Powhatan Baptist Church, Powhatan, Ohio: June 20-25; one profession of faith; Joe Holcomb, pastor, Grace Memorial Church, Tupelo, evangelist; Lee Holcomb, bringing special music; Dwight Massengill, pastor.

Youth II Sunday School department, Mission Olympics had as its purpose the recognition of Mississippi missionaries. Each participant in the 14 athletic events of the morning "ran" in the name of a female missionary from the Magnolia State.

Missionary name tags were worn by each competitor. At the end of the Olympics, symbolically closed by the extinguishing of the 1982 Olympic flame, each contestant received note paper with an addressed envelope, indicating the mission field of her missionary, in order to send the cherished blue ribbons to missionaries who won the events in a vicarious way.

"Mission Olympics brought Collins Baptist Women and Mississippi missionaries together to create an awareness—as never before—of God's work on the mission field," said Jacques Rogers, Mission, Olympics Director.

1st, McComb sponsors rally

First Baptist Church, McComb, sponsored an area-wide patriotic rally, July 4 at Percy Quin State Park. Invitation had been sent to all elected officials of McComb, Summit, Magnolia, Osyka, Pike County, and area level officials from southwest Mississippi.

The Chancel Choir of First Baptist Church presented the musical, "I Love America," under direction of Robert W. Goodman, Jr., minister of music, with soloists: Ken Wilkinson, Sammy Pope, Robert Goodman, Brenda Coleman, Mark Vest, Alice Farnham, and Gloria Delony.

An honor guard was provided by the HHC1/155TH (M) in Mississippi National Guard which presented the colors and led in the pledge of allegiance and salute to the nation.

Alan Day, pastor, First, McComb, delivered the patriotic address.

Evangelism meets set for two cities

Two regional Evangelism Conferences are set for the end of August in Brookhaven and Hattiesburg featuring Frank Crumpler, Gene Henderson, and Fred Wolfe at each. Theme of the meetings is "Growing An Evangelistic Church."

The dates for these meetings, which are designed for all church staff and lay persons, are August 30 at First Baptist Church, Brookhaven, and August 31 at Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg.

Crumpler is on the staff of the Evangelism Section of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta. Henderson is pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, Columbus. And Wolfe is pastor of Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., and new president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Topics for the sessions of the conferences include "Do the Work of an Evangelist," "Marks of an Evangelistic Church," "Our Need for Revival," "The Theology of Evangelism," "Keeping Evangelism Alive in Your Church," "Preparation for Revival," and "The Primacy of Evangelism."

Each meeting begins at 10 a.m. and will conclude at 3 that afternoon. These conferences are for persons in the southern half of the state. Earlier conferences were held in the north.

These meetings are sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Evangelism department, Guy Henderson, director.

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Thursday, July 22, 1982

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

"Captivating California"

In "captivating California" the National Federation of Press Women convened at Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, June 9-13. Mary Lou Webb of Meadville (third v-p of the national organization) and I represented Mississippi Press Women. I detoured by San Francisco for a weekend and with other press women and my Jackson friend, Margaret Fry, took a bus tour to L.A.

For my amusement, I have surveyed my reactions to that week's events: Best view: rocky cliffs south of Monterey dipping their toes in the blue Pacific.

Favorite flowers: wild nasturtiums in Santa Barbara.

Nicest odor: fresh spicy redwoods beyond Mt. Tampais in the box canyon at Muir Woods (thanks to William Kent and Teddy Roosevelt for saving them for us in 1908).

Choicest tastes: strawberries for breakfast everywhere; sourdough bread in S.F.; raspberry Danish pastry in Solvang.

Biggest bargain: 5c rides for senior citizens on S.F. buses and cable cars (I wasn't quite old enough to take advantage! but Margaret did).

Most photographed by me: Golden Gate Bridge.

Sheerest man-made perfection: Hearst Castle at San Simeon—for instance, the Romans swimming pool with mosaic inlays, marble ladders, marble diving platform.

Most ironic situation: Cheryl Kolsi, travel guide for the coastal tour, kept asking, "Did everyone attach a green tag to her luggage?" Whose bag got lost? Cheryl's. She forgot to attach a green tag.

Nicest strangers: a couple who not only gave directions, but got off the trolley with Margaret and me and walked with us through Chinatown.

Most heartwarming: meeting again old friends not seen in over 20 years, Martha Ann Hale Azlin, former Missis-

sippian, and Gwen Shoemaker Castle, and talking on the phone with my Chinese friend, May Ying Lew.

Worst disaster: visiting an L.A. beauty shop, paying \$22.50 ("not very expensive here," the operator said), and getting talked into a "toner" I didn't want.

Best speaker at the convention: Sarah McClendon, newspaper, radio, and television journalist who has covered the Washington scene since 1944 and is nationally known for her TV encounters with nine presidents.

Notable speech topics: the successful executive interview; the IRS and the writer; stress reduction; the press and the Olympics; academia and the press; (also a fashion show by four top designers—Christine Albers, Helga, Phyllis Sues, and Travilla).

Memorable personalities: Ethel Hanft—short, blonde, friendly, Iowa's Woman of Achievement, author of two books and writer of a newspaper column; Wendy Jones of Alaska and Calif., pioneer, adventurer, teacher, writer, artist, traveler—white-haired and blue-eyed, with a deep booming voice; the Chocos, a couple of Anglo-philos, co-authors of *Bed and Breakfast*, an unusual travel book about their adventures in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland.

Most striking quotes: by Albert Schweitzer, mounted on a wall of the library at Chapman's College which is affiliated with Disciples of Christ (one day's convention sessions met at the college, which has an outstanding Schweitzer Collection): "Noray of sunlight is ever lost, but the green it wakes into existence needs time to sprout and it is not always granted to the sower to live to see the harvest." "Whatever kindness a man puts out into the world works on the hearts and thoughts of his fellow man." "Whoever is spared personal pain must feel himself called to help diminish the pain of others."

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Just for the Record



Washington Baptist Church has voted to build a new auditorium and additional education space at the cost of \$393,000. The contract was awarded to Polk Construction Company, Columbia. Members of the building committee are (left to right) Lowrey Herrington, Irvin Garrett, Peggy Jordan, Jerry Holloway, Estus Porter, Glen Holder, Robert Hensley, Jimmy Runnels, chairman, Robert E. Jones, pastor. Not pictured, Christine Smith and Jimmy June.



THE FELLOWSHIP CHOIR, 10-month-old senior adult choir of RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSON, will sing in Louisiana July 24-25. They will present their 1890's banquet program Saturday and sacred program Sunday at Willow Point Baptist Church, Shreveport. Sunday night they will present sacred music plus testimony at First Baptist Church, Sterlington. Mrs. Joy Cliburn directs the choir. Paula Galloway, pianist, is accompanist. Several play instruments: Roy Alford, guitar and string bass; W. R. Burris, violin; and Bessie Knight, accordeon. Earlier this year they sang at Morrison Heights, Clinton, and Pine Grove, Magee. David Worthington is minister of music.



SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, COLLINS, Covington Association, recently held a recognition service for Girls in Action. The theme was: "A Promise... A Rainbow... and Me." Two were recognized for completion of Adventure one. Eight were recognized for Adventure two. As collar bearers each G.A. had a Mission Friend. Pictured left to right: WMU director, Mrs. Jean Turner, Mission Friends Gala McRaney, Alisa Keys, Alyssa Rogers, Scott Fortenberry, Matt Robinson, Alana Walker, Tal Pickering, Ronda Ross, and Cape Jones, G.A. leader, Mrs. Jackie McRaney. Back row right to left, Kristen McRaney, Stacey Turner, Heather Bender, Melanie Rogers, Pam Turner, Mary Beth Collins, Angel Gibson, Melanie Buckley, Monica McRaney and Tara McBeth.

The true-life story of Corrie ten Boom, a former Nazi prisoner, will be presented through the World Wide motion picture, "The Hiding Place," on July 25, at 6 p.m. at the Trinity Baptist Church, Biloxi.

Young adults of Algoma Baptist Church, Pontotoc County, celebrated Senior Church Members' Day on June 27. Mrs. Sammie Barlow introduced 18 senior members and two visitors. Mrs. Julius Stahl commended the senior adults for setting an example of concern for others. Mrs. Travis Brown presented to each A Little Book of Comfort by Ruth Ikerman. (A book had been mailed to Mrs. Fern McCoy, 92.) Kenny Adair, pastor, delivered the special message. Senior members were guests at a lunch prepared by the younger members.

McAdams Baptist Church, Attala County, will send 16 people to Attica, Ind., Aug. 2-6 for VBS work, survey work, and visitation. The pastor, Joe Anderson, will preach in revival services at Attica.

Corinth Church, Jasper County, enrolled 144 in Vacation Bible School June 7-11, with a daily average of 115. Edd Holloman, pastor, was director.

Robbie Neal Watson, former part-time student news director, New Orleans Seminary, on June 1 became full-time director of communications.

A native of Olive Branch, he is a graduate of William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. He has done additional study in art and journalism at Ole Miss and Union University.

Watson

Shelby J. Taylor, 73, of Crystal Springs, died July 15 at St. Dominic-Jackson Memorial Hospital. Funeral services were held July 16 at First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs, with burial in Old Crystal Springs Cemetery. He was the father of John Lee Taylor, former pastor in Mississippi, now pastor in Jackson, Tenn. Other survivors included Taylor's wife, Mrs. Jewel Myers Taylor; another son, Donald Ray Taylor of Oxford; two brothers; and six grandchildren.

Bill Rittenhouse celebrated his fifth anniversary as pastor of First Baptist Church, Tupelo, on July 4.



The BSU at Meridian Junior College recently honored its leadership at an end-of-the-year fellowship dinner. Lisa Hamilton, left, BSU president for 1980-82, and Cheryl Ann Whitehead, Missions Chairman for 1981-82, were presented plaques in appreciation for service. Leon Young, director of missions, Lauderdale Association, attended the dinner. Charlotte Herrington is BSU director.

Noel Brock has resigned as pastor of Valley Grove Baptist Church, Pontotoc County, and is entering full-time evangelism. He may be contacted through Noel Brock Evangelistic Association, Inc., Rt. 2, Box 184E, New Albany, Miss. 38652 (phone 534-8796).



GREEN'S CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, Petal, honored Q. C. BARRETT as pastor emeritus June 6. Joel Ray, director of missions, Lebanon Association, brought a message, "The New Caleb." Jimmy Martin, pastor, left, presented Barrett, right, a plaque commemorating the occasion. Barrett was pastor of Green's Creek from 1947 to 1974.

Ray Garrison, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church near Greenwood, recently received a bachelor of theology degree from International Bible Institute and Seminary, Orlando, Fla. He will continue study toward a master of theology degree.

Youths work way to W. Va.

Sixteen left for a West Virginia mission trip, July 9, from First Baptist Church, Winona. They represent six of Carroll-Montgomery association's 40 churches. They are Curtis and Jewel Riley, Duck Hill; Tammie Avant, Donna Elliott and Bonnie Anderson, Valley Hill; Marilyn Bishop, Libby Carpenter, Jan Ferguson, Lady Summers, and Peter Fairley, North Winona; Mrs. Mae Hardin, Ann and Nolan Houston, First, Winona; Denise Andrews and Kim Perkins, Carrollton; and David Holman, North Carrollton.

The teams will be doing People

Search, Backyard Bible Clubs, and youth revival, at the mission in Philippi, W. Va. One team will do inside finish carpenter work. The mission is establishing two more missions, in Belington and Nestorville, W. Va.

Youth of North Winona under direction of pastor Frank Bishop and Peter Fairley, youth-music director, and the Youth Committee, have done several things to raise the \$500 needed to send the youth, among these was a car wash July 5.

Three girls at Valley Hill had cake decorating classes to help raise funds.



Lawrence Braswell scrubs tires at the July 5 North Winona car wash. Mrs. Jan Ferguson washes the top. These two youth committee members and Peter Fairley stayed the whole day.

Devotional Striving together

By J. Gerald Harris, pastor Colonial Heights, Jackson

Several years ago while vacationing in California, I went to Anaheim Stadium to see a baseball game between the California Angels and the Boston Red Sox. The game started an hour before twilight under a beautiful blue sky in perfect weather.

As the game progressed the shades of night fell and a pleasant breeze unfurled the American flag just beyond the center-field fence. After the game there was a brilliant fireworks display. More than 35,000 people thrilled to the glare of skyrockets bursting in air.

The stadium lights remained off for a few minutes after the fireworks display ended and it was as dark as midnight in the Louisiana Bayou country. Then the voice of the announcer over the loudspeaker gave the instruction for everyone to light the matches which had been previously distributed. Well, you know how much light a match gives. You could barely read the large print in the Sears Catalogue with the light of a match. But all of a sudden there were 35,000 matches aglow in the stadium and it began to look like high noon at Miami Beach.

You see, it makes a lot of difference when people cooperate and do things together. The world would stand in awe if the people of God in the great state of Mississippi would cooperate in bold mission thrust to win our state, our nation, and our world to Jesus Christ.

We are to move forward "like a mighty army," in step, hand in hand, and heart in heart to do valiantly in the name of our God.

Truly, revival in our state, the salvation of multitudes of people, holy progress depends upon our faithfulness and dedication to the things of our dear Lord.

Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel (Philippians 1:27).



Harris

Bible Book

Praise to the Lord of life

By Gene Henderson, pastor
Fairview, Columbus
Psalms 9, 36, 100

Praise to the Lord of Life is the title of this final lesson from the psalms of praise. Next week begins a three-session unit on lament psalms. God is described in the three psalms of this lesson as the God of righteous judgment, precious loving-kindness, and goodness.

I. God of judgment (Psalm 9)
"Why do the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer?" Men have wrestled with this question through the ages. Sometimes it appears in life that evil is stronger than good, hate stronger than love, and wickedness stronger than righteousness. In verses 7-10 the faith of the psalmist is summarized with respect to the ultimate outcome of the wicked and righteous. The Lord reigns omnipotent. From his throne he executes judgment upon the wicked and dispenses justice to the oppressed.

As the psalmist reflects upon the past, he recalls God's action which is a cause for praise and exultation (9:14). "Israel's enemies had been defeated thoroughly by the power of God. Therefore, the psalmist confidently could expect new enemies to experience the same fate (9:3-6). He envisions God trapping the wicked in their own net (9:15-16). The end result would be their destruction (9:17). Those who remained would fear God and realize their own mortality (9:19-20).

In contrast to the wicked, God is a refuge for the weak and oppressed. He will not forsake (9:10) nor forget (9:18) them, but will avenge (10:12) them. Therefore, praise should be given to the Lord who is sovereign over the life of his people.

II. God of loving-kindness (Psalm 36)
Two contrasting pictures are painted in Psalm 36. Against the backdrop of human wickedness described in the first picture (36:1-4) is painted the picture of God's loving-kindness (36:5-9). The psalm closes with a prayer for God's continued blessing (36:10-11) and a prophetic declaration of the downfall of the wicked (13:12).

In the first picture "transgression" is personified as speaking to the heart of the ungodly. Whether the psalmist is thinking of the wicked generally or describing the impulse to evil within himself is debated. The text of verse 1 may be "within his heart" or "within my heart." The latter corresponds well to human experience. David's conscience also would have been sensitive to such temptation. Under the influence of the evil impulse the wicked has no fear of God's judgment and cannot see

the truth of personal iniquity (9:1-2). As a result, the wicked not only ceases to think and act right. He lies awake planning mischief and carries out his plan (36:3-4).

In the face of prevailing wickedness, God's loving-kindness is seen as precious. The psalmist finds relief in the fact that God's loving-kindness, faithfulness, righteousness, and judgments are beyond human estimate and comprehension. Man's only hope is in God's preservation, protection, and provision (36:6-9). The psalmist therefore praises God for his watch care and prays for the continuation of God's loving-kindness toward himself and the upright. He is so convinced of the final victory that he declares the downfall of the wicked as a fact although it remains to be accomplished.

III. God of goodness (Psalm 100)
Jubilant praise characterizes this psalm widely known through the paraphrase by William Kettle in 1561. All people of the earth, regardless of nation or race, are exhorted to join the festive celebration of praise to God. The Lord is to be praised because "he is God" and because "the Lord is good."

With brief and simple strokes the psalmist calls for praise to God because he is the Creator and the Sustainer of life. God created man, therefore man is his possession. (Note the variant reading for v. 3). God is the good Shepherd who provides for his sheep.

The goodness of God is seen also in his forgiving grace and faithfulness. He not only created man but redeemed his fallen creature. Joyfully then, all the earth should worship him with thanksgiving and serve him.

Tallahatchie crusade will feature Leavell

Tallahatchie County Crusade for Christ is an area crusade being planned for July 25-July 30.

The meetings will be held at Charleston High School Stadium July 25-27 at 8 p.m. and on the grounds of First Baptist Church, Tutwiler, July 28-30. Landrum Leavell, president, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, will be the evangelist. Sidney Buckley, music evangelist, will direct the music.

Bobby Turner, pastor of the Philipp Baptist Church, is chairman of the publicity committee.

Uniform Lesson

Philippian jailer: a shaken man

By Charles S. Davis
associate professor of Bible, MC
Acts 16:6-34

The conversion of the Philippian jailer is one of the climactic events in the whole book of Acts. As the gospel of Jesus Christ has previously reached out to Palestinian Jews, Hellenistic Jews, Samaritans, and God-fearing Gentiles, so now it reaches out to a "pagan"—one with no previous influence from the Jews or the Old Testament scriptures.

I. Macedonian call (16:6-10)
When Paul had finished revisiting the Galatian Christians won on his first missionary journey, he started a new campaign. He wanted to go to the great city of Ephesus in the Roman province of Asia, but was prevented from doing so by the Holy Spirit. His next choice was to go northward to the province of Bithynia, but he was again barred by the Spirit. Although Paul may not have realized it at the time, God apparently was leading him by closing some doors and opening others. God still works in strange, wonderful, and similar ways, doesn't he?

Prevented from turning to the right or to the left, the missionary band moved straight ahead to Troas. It was in Troas that Paul had a vision of a man from the Roman province of Macedonia saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Acting immediately upon God's call, Paul and Silas and Timothy, now joined by Luke (note the "we section" beginning at verse 10), set sail across the Aegean Sea.

II. Missionary work (16:11-15)
The missionary party soon came to the city of Philippi, a Roman colony named after the father of Alexander the Great. Apparently this Roman city with a Greek heritage had too few Jewish citizens (ten adult males) for a synagogue, but Paul found a place of prayer "down by the riverside."

Paul preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to the women gathered there. One of them, Lydia, apparently a well-to-do businesswoman, became Paul's first convert in Philippi. She invited the visiting preachers to her home, and later her house became the meeting place for the Philippian church.

III. Money matter (15:16-24)
These verses tell of a conflict in which Paul and Silas were charged with disturbing the peace and teaching customs unlawful for Romans. However, the issue was not doctrine but money. Some unscrupulous men had been exploiting for their own financial gain a slave girl thought to have the power of inspired speech. When she was cured from her demented condition, her own-

ers rather than rejoicing in her wholeness were furious that their source of revenue was gone. They were not the last ones to be touched on the most sensitive nerve in the human body—the one that runs from the billfold to the heart!

Playing on the prejudice against Jews and their price in things Roman, the men succeeded in moving the gathering mob and the town magistrates to seize Paul and Silas. They were beaten, placed in maximum security, and secured in the stocks.

IV. Midnight earthquake (16:25-29)

At midnight in the dungeon prison Paul and Silas were praying and singing to God. The other prisoners (and apparently the jailer) were listening to them. Suddenly a violent earthquake shook the area, opened the prison doors, and unfettered the prisoners. Concluding that the prisoners had escaped, the jailer with a strict code of honor (he was probably a retired Roman soldier) was about to take his own life.

But Paul, seeing his intention, called for the jailer not to harm himself. After calling for torches, the jailer rushed to the cell of Paul and Silas and fell down before them in fear, shaken to the very core of his being. He was ready to hear the gospel.

V. Man's salvation (16:30-34)

At this crisis moment, the Philippian jailer felt a deep need for God in his life. Probably recalling the praying and singing of these unusual men, the jailer wanted what Paul and Silas had in their lives. He blurted out his agonized question, "What must I do to be saved?" The answer came back, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." In that moment of decision the jailer committed his life to Jesus and was saved.

Even before he was baptized, the jailer demonstrated the great change which had come into his life by washing the wounds of Paul and Silas. After his baptism, he brought them to his house, and the three new brothers in Christ had Christian fellowship and a meal at the jailer's table. This lost man had found God and new friends in God's family!

Philadelphia (EP)—A four-person delegation from the American Friends Service Committee delivered \$30,000 worth of heart valves to a Hanoi hospital and held high-level talks with Vietnamese, Kampuchean (Cambodian) and United States officials in an Indochina visit just ended.

Life and Work

Jesus—our mediator

By David McCubbin, associate pastor,
First, Meridian

Hebrews 6:19-20; 9:24; 10:11-14, 19-25

This is the last lesson on the unit theme "Resources for Faith." Jesus the Son of God became a man in order to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. He came to save us from sin and call us into a relationship whereby we can claim God's promises for now and forever. The response that is required of us is faith.

This week's lesson is "Jesus—Our Mediator." A mediator is one in the middle. He stands in between and seeks to bring both parties together. In Jesus, the God-man, we have one who brings God to men and men to God. He is the meeting place. He is not mediator because God needs to be persuaded to accept man. Jesus is God's initiative. Paul wrote, "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself..." (II Cor. 5:19).

Hebrews 9:15 (RSV) reads, "Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant." Here Jesus is called mediator. He brings the believer and God together—mediation. The term mediator is used also in 8:6 and 12:24 referring to Jesus and the new covenant.

Under the old covenant the high priest acted as mediator between God and the people when he went into the Holy of Holies once a year. The place symbolized God's dwelling. The high priest representing all the people thus went into the presence of God. He went in with the blood of animals sacrificed for the sins of both himself and the people. In addition to this annual ritual, priestly functions of maintaining the tabernacle and offering sacrifices were carried out regularly. Our scripture lesson alludes to these activities of the Levitical priesthood.

Jesus—our mediator, entered into the true sanctuary (9:24). The most holy place of the tabernacle was a mere representation of heaven, God's dwelling place. The high priest went only behind a curtain but Jesus went into the very presence of God—a place not made with hands. Christ's work is far superior as the heavenly abode of God is superior to the curtains stretched by human hands.

Jesus—our mediator, provides a secure link with heaven (6:19-20). He has gone behind the curtain that separates this world from the unseen world and planted an anchor that secures us from the destructive force of sin. Christ-

ian hope is not wishful thinking about what we would like to happen. It is certainly about what will happen based on God's promises. Jesus is our hope. He has entered the sanctuary of heaven on our behalf. He is our forerunner. His entrance assures us that we also shall enter.

Jesus—our mediator, has adequately handled our sin problem (10:11-14). The priests of the Old Testament are on their feet repeatedly making sacrifices for the sins of the people. Their efforts could never satisfactorily atone for sins. Jesus offered himself once for all as a totally adequate answer to our sinful condition. He sits in the face of honor while the saving power of his sacrificial act continues to work in the lives of men and the history of the world. God's purpose in Christ will prevail. We will be a part of it and shaped by it or be as sorrowless salt trodden under foot (Matt. 5:13) as it passes us by.

Jesus—our mediator, provides access and challenge (10:19-25). Into the most holy sanctuary the high priest went alone. All other stood without, they did not have direct access to God. With the new covenant this is all changed. The death of Jesus makes it possible for his followers to enter the sanctuary (v. 19). The tearing of his flesh rent the curtain and we have direct access to God (v. 20).

The exhilaration of such direct access provides a real challenge. No longer need we be on the defensive, cowed by our sins. We can go to God with confidence based on Christ's saving act. We should draw near to God. We have the strongest kind of encouragement to be faithful. We don't have to waste our energies trying to compensate for past sins. These energies can be used to strengthen the fellowship of believers and participate in God's ongoing purpose.

In Jesus we can be in touch with God and God with us.

Homecomings

Ebenezer (Jeff Davis): July 25-30; Jimmy Yarbrough, evangelist; Robert and Susan Beaver, music; Sunday at 11 a.m., followed by lunch at the church and afternoon service at 1:15; during week at 7:30 p.m.; Ralph Cranford, pastor.

County Line Church, Dossville: homecoming July 25; services at 11 a.m., lunch in the Horace Lee Jenkins Fellowship Building; H. C. Adams, pastor, in charge of service; Morris Ray Cockroft, in charge of the music. (The church, in Leake County, is in Attala Association.)